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TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY

August 7, 2003

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TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY

VIA FACSIMILE AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

The Honorable Pat Miller
Director
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

Re: Application of Nashville Gas Company, a Division of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. for an Adjustment of its Rates and Charges, the Approval of Revised Tariffs and the Approval of Revised Service Regulations
Docket No. 03-00313.

Dear Director Miller:

I am writing on behalf of Nashville Gas Company ("Nashville Gas"), applicant in the above-captioned docket, with the support and consent of the Consumer Advocate Division of the Tennessee Attorney General ("CAD"), to request a modification of the remaining procedural dates in this proceeding. The basis for this request is an effort to permit time for settlement discussions between Nashville Gas and the CAD without prejudicing either party's ability to adequately prepare for the hearing of this matter. Based on Nashville Gas' experience, serious settlement discussions in a rate case require virtually all of the parties attention for a period of at least 3-4 days, part of which is required for preparation, part of which is devoted to meeting and consideration of various offers and counteroffers, and part of which is necessary to follow up on additional details/questions raised by the parties. In order to accommodate this process in the relatively tight timetable established for the remainder of this proceeding, Nashville Gas believes it would be advantageous to the parties and to the prospects of settlement to make some relatively slight adjustments to the remaining dates on the procedural schedule for this matter.

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The current and proposed modified dates for the remaining matters on the procedural schedule are set out below:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Current Date</u>	<u>Proposed Date</u>
CAD/Intervenor Testimony	August 12, 2003	August 18, 2003
Second Discovery Requests	August 18, 2003	August 21, 2003
Responses to Second Data Requests	August 25, 2003	August 28, 2003
Rebuttal testimony	August 29, 2003	September 3, 2003

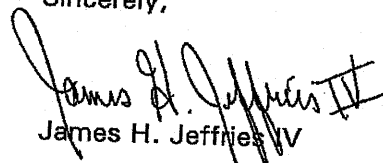
No change to the hearing date or any other date on the procedural schedule is proposed.

Nashville Gas submits that the changes proposed above will not prejudice any party in the preparation of its case for hearing but will facilitate orderly settlement discussions between the active parties to the case. Given the proximity of the current filing date for prefiled direct intervenor testimony Nashville Gas respectfully requests an expedited ruling on this request.

If there are any questions about this request, or if further discussion is required, counsel for Nashville Gas and the CAD will make themselves available at the Hearing Officer's convenience for that purpose.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


James H. Jeffries IV

JHJ/srl

c: Mr. Timothy Phillips (via fax)
Mr. George H. Godwin, Jr. (via fax)
Mr. R. Dale Grimes (via fax)